

EMPLOYMENT OF VISUALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS
IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

June 1, 1941

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

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A survey has been made of the number of visually handicapped persons employed in various occupations and professions and registered with the State Council for the Blind, Department of Welfare, Pennsylvania.

On June 1, 1941 there were 16,022 individuals registered with the State Council for the Blind with visual acuities of 10/200 or less; 13,725 of this number were receiving blind pension grants. (An Ophthalmologic report is secured for each person registered with the State Council for the Blind.)

In compiling the following data, the Department of Public Assistance submitted the earned incomes, occupations and professions of all individuals receiving pension grants. Supplementary reports were received from private agencies for the blind, residential schools for the blind and from individuals themselves.

POPULATION

Population of Pennsylvania (Census 1940)..... 9,900,180
Ratio of blindness in Pennsylvania (10/200 or less vision)... 1 to 618

AGE GROUPS

3% Under 21 years of age.
17% From 21 to 50 years of age.
13% From 50 to 60 years of age.
18% From 60 to 70 years of age.
49% 70 years of age and over.

EARNING GROUPS

2% Earned \$200.00 a month or more.
7% Earned \$100.00 to \$200.00 a month.
11% Earned \$ 70.00 to \$100.00 a month.
18% Earned \$ 50.00 to \$ 70.00 a month.
27% Earned \$ 25.00 to \$ 50.00 a month.
22% Earned \$ 10.00 to \$ 25.00 a month.
13% Earned \$ 10.00 a month or less.

WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND

2.

<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>NUMBER EMPLOYED</u>	<u>AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNING</u>
Superintendent - General	1)	
Shop Superintendent	1)	
Branch Superintendents	5)	Av.*\$ 171.46
Sales Managers	4	129.00
Shop Salesmen	9	74.74
Shop Teachers	2	54.93
Social Worker	1)	
Field Worker	1)	
Home Work Supervisor	1)	Av.* 90.00
Telephone Operator	1)	
Dictaphone Operator	1)	
Typist	1)	Av.* 32.06
Weavers	39	26.23
Mat Making	7	33.07
Pillow Case Making	22	43.39
Chair Caning	22	23.75
Mop Making	9	50.73
Broom Making	103	45.41
Shipping Clerks	4	75.88
Shop Foremen	3	85.66
Shop Floormen	5	42.11
Shop Janitors	2	35.81
General Shop Employment	26	35.33
Home Workers	61	5.15

Total number employed in Workshops..... 331

STAND CONCESSIONS

Council for the Blind	40	82.00
#Pennsylvania Association for the Blind (Pittsburgh)	8	58.17
#Pennsylvania Association for the Blind (Reading)	1	100.00

#Operated under Central Management Plan

Total number employed as stand operators
under agency supervision..... 49

HOME TEACHERS

Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society	4)	
Work Projects Administration Home Teachers	33)	Av.* 80.00

Total number employed as Home Teachers..... 37

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND

<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>NUMBER EMPLOYED</u>	<u>AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNING</u>
Teachers	17)	
Librarians	2)	
Placement Agent	1)	Av.*\$ 128.64
Telephone Operators	3)	
Janitor	1)	
Dishwasher	1)	
Cook	1)	
Assistant Storekeeper	1)	Av.* 73.28

Total number employed in Residential Schools for Blind... 27

PROFESSIONAL


Lawyers	5	Unsolicited
Evangelist and Ministers	4	29.50
Evangelist and Minister	1	Unsolicited
Ordained Ministers	2	Unsolicited
Osteopaths	7	Unsolicited
Massuers	4	Unsolicited
Physiotherapists	3	Unsolicited
Chiropractors	2	44.32
Librarian - Braille	1	87.50
Music Teachers	5	32.49
Musicians - Singers	2	Unsolicited
Musicians	24	34.34
Consultant Civil Engineer	1	Unsolicited
Director of Radio School	1	Unsolicited
Contractor's Assistant	1	80.00
Public School Teachers	2	200.00

Total number employed in Professions..... 65

CLERICAL OCCUPATION

Stenographers	3	80.00
Work Projects Administration		
Braille Transcribers	6	78.56
National Youth Administration		
Worker	1)	
Red Cross Braille Transcriber	1)	Av.* 15.68

Total number employed in Clerical Operations..... 11



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STATE EMPLOYEES

4.

<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>NUMBER EMPLOYED</u>	<u>AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNING</u>
State Senator	1)	
Executive Director of State Council	1)	
Field Supervisor of State Council	1)	
Investigator - State Health Dept.	1)	
Road Supervisor - Assistant	1)	
Blind Consultant) Department of	1)	
Supervisors) Public	2)	
Investigators) Assistance	3)	
		Av.*\$ 119.78

Total number employed in State Service..... 11

COUNTY, CITY AND BOROUGH EMPLOYEES

Burgess	1)	
Clerk of Courts	1)	
City Ash Department	1)	
Associate Judge	1)	
Tipstaff	1)	
Justice of the Peace	1)	
		Av.* 99.16

Total number employed in County, City and Borough positions.. 6

SKILLED OCCUPATIONS

Piano Tuners	25	47.45
Weavers, Independent	2	36.00
Craftsman	1)	
Knitter	1)	
Broom Maker	1)	
Shoemaker	1)	
Photo-finisher	1)	
Telephone Operator	1)	
		Av.* 29.93

Total number employed in skilled occupations..... 33

TRADE

Junk Dealers	5	19.66
Flour Mill Operator	1)	
Rent-A-Bike	1)	
Hardware Business	1)	
Florist	1)	
Job Contractor	1)	
Agent for Water Company	1)	
Treasurer of Market House	1)	
Secretary of Insurance Company	1)	
Automobile Mechanic	1)	
Clay Mine Foreman	1)	
Real Estate Dealer	1)	
Sheet Metal Business	1)	
		Av.* 41.80

Total number employed in Trades..... 17

DOMESTIC AND PERSONAL SERVICE

<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>NUMBER EMPLOYED</u>	<u>AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNING</u>
Proprietor, Laundry	1)	
Proprietor, Tailor Shop	1)	
Proprietor, Pool Room	2)	
Proprietor, Beer Garden	2)	
Proprietor, Restaurant	1)	Av.*\$ 47.96
Proprietor, Restaurant	1	Unsolicited
Rooming House Managers	9	29.19
Dishwasher	1)	
Janitors	2)	
Houseman	1)	
Watchmen	2)	Av.* 46.47
Houseworkers	9	17.43
Vendors	23	25.46
Laborers	29	23.60
Farm and Dairy Work	27	23.71

Total number employed in Domestic and Personal Service.... 111

RETAIL DEALERS

Salesman, Bond	1)	
Salesman, Auto Polish	1)	
Salesman, Auto	1)	
Salesman, Automatic Canteen	1)	
Salesman, Beverage	1)	
Salesman, Stationery	1)	
Salesman, Apples	1)	
Salesman, Radio	1)	Av.* 44.81
Confectionery and News Stands	47	40.00
Grocers	9	37.50
Gas Station Operators	5	42.50
Newsboys	13	22.19
News Stands	10	49.72
Salesmen, Various	29	20.64
Salesman, Insurance	1	Unsolicited
Salesmen, Insurance	3	13.58
Salesmen, Vending Machines	2	45.33
Salesmen, Household	5	18.00
Salesmen, Stock	3	25.65
Salesmen, Candy	7	27.95
Salesmen, Magazines	5	7.40
Salesman, Magazines	1	Unsolicited
Salesmen, Brooms	17	12.55

Total number employed as Retail Dealers..... 165

FACTORY OCCUPATIONS

<u>OCCUPATIONS</u>	<u>NUMBER EMPLOYED</u>	<u>AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNING</u>
Sorting Apples	1)	
Oven Tender (Bakery)	1)	
Candy Makers	2)	
Tobacco Stripper	1)	
Stocking Turner	1)	
Plant Potting	1)	Av.*\$ 54.92
Total number employed in Factory operations..... 7		

SUMMARY

Workshops For The Blind!.....	331
Stand Concessions.....	49
Home Teachers.....	37
Residential Schools For The Blind.....	27
Professional.....	65
Clerical Occupation.....	11
State Employees.....	11
County, City And Borough Employees.....	6
Skilled Occupations.....	33
Trade.....	17
Domestic And Personal Service.....	111
Retail Dealers.....	165
Factory Occupations.....	7
TOTAL.....	870

* - Average monthly group earnings.

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Penna. State Council f/t Blind.
EMPLOYMENT OF VISUALLY HANDICAPPED,
PERSONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PA.

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